



# DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

ter H. Boyd, Press Officer

. Drew Dearnaley, Assistant Press Officer

Telephone: (212) 867-8400

80078

March 13, 1980

## REFUGEES, FLOOD VICTIMS TURN TO FUND

NEW YORK -- Victims of floods in Californis and Iran and refugees in Rhodesia have been helped by recent emergency grants from the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief.

Winter floods in the southwestern province of Khuzistan, Iran, have severely affected fifty villages leaving at least 200 people dead and about 25,000 homeless. An aid committee of Iranian churches is working with the government and the Red Lion & Sun Society (Iran's equivalent of the Red Cross) to provide help and the Rt. Rev. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti, Anglican Bishop of Iran, asked the Fund to join in the response.

The Fund sent \$5,000 to Church World Service for use in the flood relief effort. Among the growing list of victims of this year's floods in California was St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church in Studio City which suffered \$30,000 structural damage when a mud and water slide raced through the buildings. The Fund dispatched \$10,000 to help rebuild the church and day school.

The Fund also sent \$10,000 to a national church committee in Rhodesia which is attempting to feed, house, clothe and repatriate refugees under United Nations auspices. The Committee is chaired by Anglican Bishop Peter Hatendi, Suffragan of Mashonaland.

In informing Bishop Hatendi of the grant, the Fund's director, the Rev. Samir J. Habiby said: "It is the earnest hope of the Presiding Bishop that this emergency grant will be of assistance to you in affirming the active role of the Anglican Church. . . in this ministry."

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